

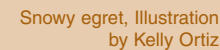


Please respect wildlife. Observe animals from a distance - use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto lenses. Move slowly and not directly at animals.

**Bureau of Land Management**  
**La Jara Field Office**  
**15571 County Rd T5**  
**La Jara, Colorado 81140**  
**(719) 274-8971**

Thanks for working with us!

Colorado Division of Wildlife • Ducks Unlimited • National Fish  
& Wildlife Foundation • Trout Unlimited • Great Outdoors Colorado  
• U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service • The Nature Conservancy  
• Alamosa County • Bureau of Reclamation • San Luis Valley Rural  
Electric Cooperative Inc. • Rio Grande Water Conservation District  
• Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • North American Wetlands  
Conservation Act (NAWCA)



# BLANCA WETLANDS

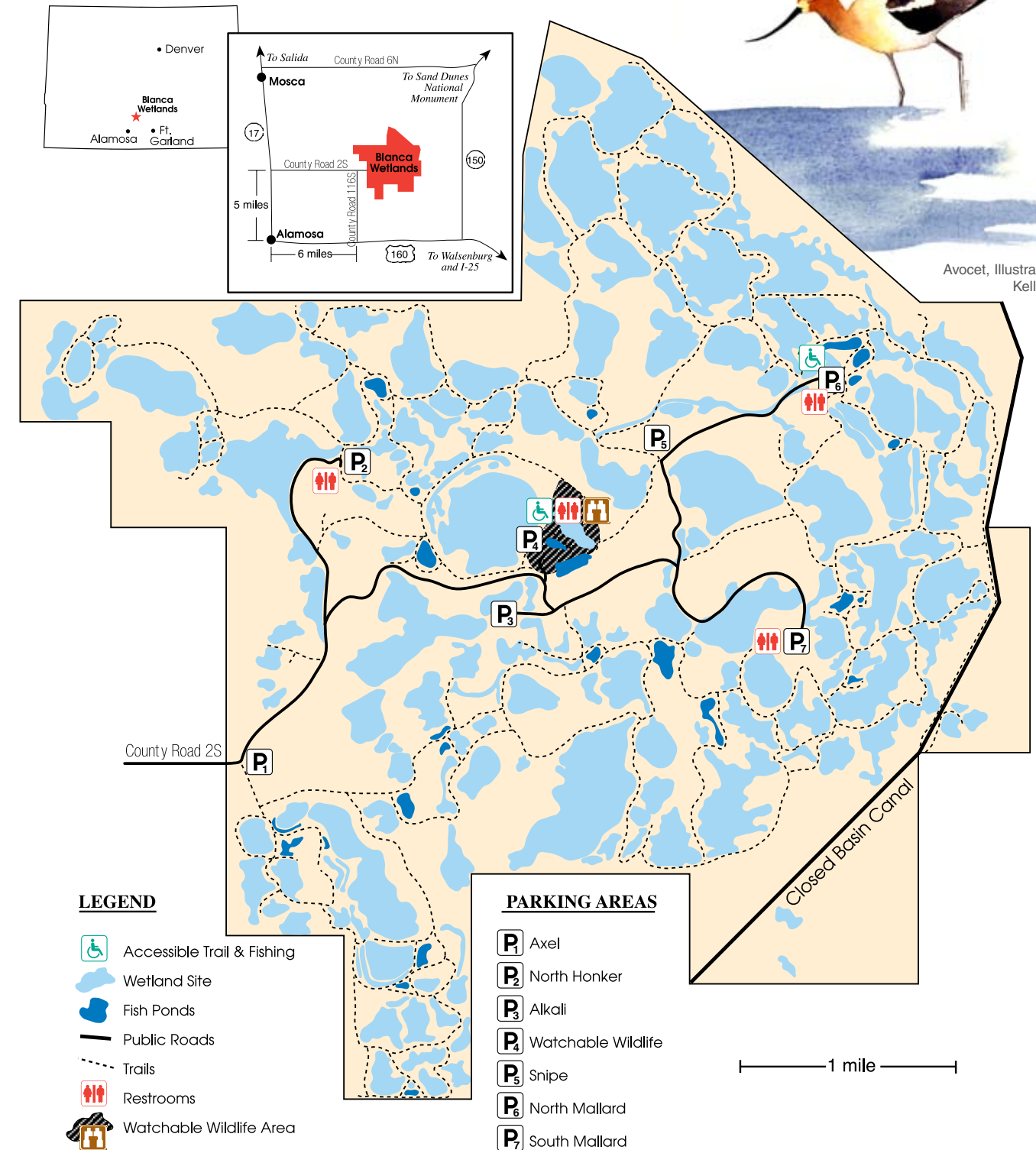
**COLORADO • La Jara Field Office**



# BLM



Avocet, Illustration by  
Kelly Ortiz







# RESTORING THE WETLANDS

Long ago, a network of playa lakes, ponds, marshes and wet meadows shimmered in the desert scrub of the San Luis Valley. Today, many of the wetlands are dry due to a lower ground water table and decreased rain and snow runoff from the mountains.

The Blanca Wetlands – a part of this wetlands network – is making a comeback through the efforts of the Bureau of Land Management and its many partners. Ponds, marshes, playas, wet meadows, and uplands intermingle at Blanca Wetlands to provide rich and diverse habitats for wildlife – and a haven for people.

## AREA CLOSURE

From February 15 to July 15, the wetlands are closed to the public to protect nesting waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife.

## BUGS, BUGS EVERYWHERE

Insects are an important food source for wildlife at Blanca Wetlands but they can make your visit an unpleasant experience. Be prepared! Wear appropriate clothing and bring insect repellent to protect yourself from biting and stinging insects - especially during the summer months. Insects are less active during the cool early morning hours and on breezy days.

## HUNTING AND FISHING AT BLANCA WETLANDS

Blanca Wetlands provides opportunities for hunting and fishing. Hunters may seek waterfowl, rabbits and other game species within established seasons. Cold



American Avocet

water ponds support trout and warm water ponds support bass and blue gill for the enjoyment of anglers. Check for more information on the entry board near the front gate. Blanca Wetlands’ fish ponds are more than just a great place to fish. They store water from artesian wells that sustain the wetlands. Some birds, like pelicans and diving ducks, prefer these deep water habitats. Ponds and ditches also provide refuge habitat for sensitive species, such as the Rio Grande chub.

All photos courtesy of Wendy Shattil/Bob Rozinski © 2008 except where noted.  
Photo on left, American bittern. Bottom photo, snowy plover. Cover photo, American Avocet.

## TIPS FOR YOUR TRIP

- The area is managed for day use with no overnight facilities provided.
- Bring your own drinking water.
- NO FIRES, please bring your camp stove or charcoal grill.
- Picnicking can be enjoyed throughout the area, but no tables are provided.
- Watch your step! Many ponds have slick banks and deep water.
- Park only in designated parking areas.
- Motorized vehicles are restricted to public roads.
- A system of trails from each parking area provides access to the wetlands by foot or other non-motorized means.



Northern leopard frog, photo by Tammy Obie

